



CUTS International *Global Affairs*

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Thawing Tensions or Diplomatic Mirage?

Has the frost between India and Canada begun to thaw, or is this just a fleeting diplomatic mirage? Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's last minute invitation to India's Narendra Modi for the G7 Summit in Canada to be held mid-June 2025, is no mere courtesy. It's a welcome bid to rewrite soured relations. Former US defence official Michael Rubin calls it a return to "maturity," a sharp pivot from Justin Trudeau's turbulent tenure, when 2023 allegations of India's involvement in Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing sparked diplomatic breakdown. Carney, a banker with a realist's lens, sees India, the fifth-largest economy, supply chain titan as indispensable for G7 talks on trade, energy, AI, and critical minerals.

Yet, this olive branch has thorns. The Canada-based NGO, World Sikh Organisation, established just after the unfortunate attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar in 1984, brands it a "betrayal," crying foul over unresolved questions on Nijjar's death.

There are whispers of a deliberate delay in the invitation to Modi, with accreditation closed by 1st June, due to Canada's domestic tightrope. Realism in international relations tells us leaders juggle home-front politics with global posturing. Carney removed Khalistani-leaning cabinet members post-election for his government is not dependent on a depleted Sikh presence in the parliament. This was a calculated snub to Trudeau's separatist sympathies, aiming to reclaim Canada's global gravitas.

Having been to most G7 summits in the past, Modi, ever the statesman, accepted the invitation with grace. This summit is his stage to tackle security, trade, and call for a global covenant on terrorism of all sorts, while cementing India's role as a Global South beacon. But India must tread carefully, Canada's misguided and militant Sikh diaspora and India's security red lines could unravel this détente. The crazy militants did not hesitate to attack Hindu temples in Canada, in spite of the fact that Gurdwaras (Sikh temples) are also revered by Hindus, because the Sikh faith was born out of Hindus with symbiotic and close relations even today.

Pradeep S. Mehta
Editor

***P.S.:** As Modi and Carney prepare to meet, the world watches to see if this diplomatic pivot can foster lasting cooperation or stumble under competing interests. Only time will tell.*

Message for our Readers

This is the eighty-sixth edition of the Monthly Brief from the Centre, which carries select published news or comments on a relevant issue. There are equally important issues which may have been missed out to keep the Monthly Brief short and swiftly readable.

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Readers are encouraged to send their own views and suggestions at: cutsglobal@cuts.org



Musk Urges Americans to 'Kill the Bill'

Elon Musk criticised Donald Trump's tax and spending bill, calling it a "disgusting abomination" and urging Americans to oppose it. The bill, backed by Trump, could significantly increase the U.S. budget deficit.



- [Abu Dhabi's ADNOC launches \\$18.7bn takeover bid for Australia's Santos](#) | Nikkei Asia
- [Mizuho Is said to Be on Cusp of Buying Indian Investment Bank Avendus](#) | Bloomberg
- [Dollar divorce? Asia's shift away from the U.S. dollar is picking up pace](#) | CNBC
- [German importers await details as China signals easing of rare earth restrictions](#) | Harici

Strategic Issues

Pentagon Review Rattles Submarine Deal

A Pentagon review of the multibillion-dollar deal for the U.S. and UK to supply Australia with nuclear-powered submarines has unsettled a key ally as China ramps up its naval ambitions for regional dominance.



- [EU-Japan: First Security and Defence Dialogue at Managing Director / Director General Level takes place in Brussels](#) | EEAS
- [Cambodia asks the International Court of Justice to rule on 4 disputed border areas](#) | Bangkok Post
- [Hit on Iran's gas field risks global fears](#) | Dawn
- [Ex-envoy Syed Akbaruddin gives inside view of Op Sindoor global outreach](#) | MSN

Energy and Climate

Greed Is Driving Oceans Toward Collapse

The ocean is under siege, and greed is to blame. UN Secretary-General António Guterres urged world leaders and grassroots groups to confront the powerful interests driving marine destruction, including illegal fishing, plastic pollution, and the accelerating impacts of climate change.



- [Russia's Rosatom to lead consortium to build first nuclear power plant in Kazakhstan](#) | The Hindu
 - [Singapore and Indonesia deepen green energy partnership with three new deals](#) | Straits Times
 - [How warming seas are altering our underwater world](#) | BBC
 - [China can lead global climate push in US absence](#) | Nikkei Asia
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Vietnam Officially Joins BRICS as 'Partner Country'

Brazil's Foreign Ministry has announced that Vietnam has officially joined Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) as a partner country. The Ministry's statement said that, as a dynamic economy deeply integrated into global value chains, Vietnam is an important player in Asia



- [The myth of multipolarity: Are we descending into a new dark age?](#) | Nikkei Asia
- [Indian MP's world tour builds narrative on Pak-based terror](#) | Economic Times

- [America's retreat spells a big opportunity for Europe](#) | Livemint
 - [India must be at the G7 Table: Carney on inviting Modi](#) | Times of India
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Taiwan Adds China's Huawei & SMIC to Export Control List

Taiwan's Commerce Ministry has added Chinese chipmakers Huawei Technologies and Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp (SMIC) to its export control list, as trade and technology frictions between the self-ruled island, China and the U.S. increase.

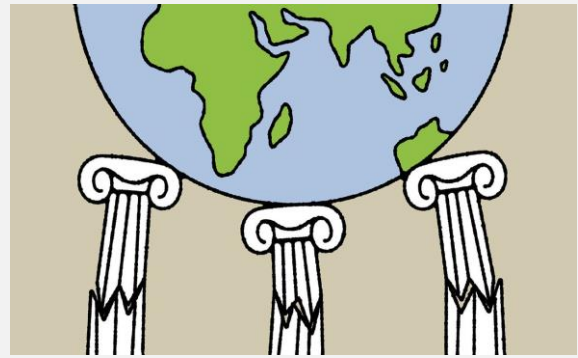


- [China's New Trade Negotiator Is Ready to Play Hardball](#) | Wall Street Journal
- [Global Economy Set for Weakest Run Since 2008 Outside of Recessions](#) | World Bank
- [Vietnam charms global manufacturers despite US tariffs](#) | Vietnam Investment Review
- [US and China agree framework deal to extend trade war truce](#) | The Guardian



Amitabh Kant Resigns as India's G20 Sherpa

Amitabh Kant has stepped down as India's G20 Sherpa, ending a 45-year career in government service. The former NITI Aayog CEO, who represented India at the G20 since 2022 and played a key role during its 2023 presidency, announced on social media that he will now engage with startups, think tanks, and academic institutions in a personal capacity.



- [Why doesn't the government work in the US?](#) | Financial Times